

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is filed in reply to the final Office action dated October 9, 2007. Claims 1, 12, 15, 22, 30, 33, 37 and 40 are amended and claims 4-5 and 26-27 are canceled. Claim 29 was previously canceled. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-3, 6-25, 28 and 30-42 remain pending.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 1, 12, 22, 30 and 37 are objected to because the amended limitation "of the same circuit block design" should be rephrased to "of said circuit block design" for proper antecedent basis. In response, claims 1, 12, 22, 30 and 37, as amended, are rephrased to "of said circuit block netlist" to provide proper antecedent basis.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-16, 18-28, 30-34 and 36-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,149,991 to Kovacs-Birkas et al. (hereinafter "Kovacs-Birkas"). An anticipation rejection requires each and every limitation be disclosed in a single prior art reference. Initially, the rejections of independent claims 1, 12, 22, 30 and 37 are addressed.

Independent claims 1, 12, 22, 30 and 37 are directed toward the problem of how to obtain more accurate timing information in less time during static timing analysis of circuit paths of a circuit block described by a netlist. A circuit path in the netlist is measured by two different timing models to obtain two timing estimates. A correction factor is generated based on the variation between the two timing estimates. The correction factor is applied to the first timing model to obtain better timing estimates.

More particularly, independent claim 1, as amended, includes the limitations "obtaining a first estimated timing response of a first circuit path of said circuit block netlist using a first timing model," "obtaining a second estimated timing response of the first circuit path of said circuit block netlist using a second timing model" and "generating a correction factor based on a variation between the first estimated timing response and the second estimated timing response." Support for this amendment may be found at least at paragraphs 18-22 of the specification. Independent claims 12, 22, 30 and 37 include similar limitations. It is respectfully submitted that Kovacs-Birkas does not disclose these limitations.

Kovacs-Birkas is directed toward providing timing correlation before and after layout and balancing the timing margins. See *Kovacs-Birkas*, column 5, lines 47-48. This is done by generating timing histograms taken at different design phases and calibrating the

histograms to a common reference. See *Kovacs-Birkas*, column 6, lines 22-35 and Figure 3. Specifically, Kovacs-Birkas generates a timing histogram before placement, a timing histogram after placement and a timing histogram after synthesis. The circuit path information used to obtain timing estimates at each design phase is different (before layout only lumped estimated parasitics are used and after layout more accurate distributed parasitics are used). See *Kovacs-Birkas*, column 6, lines 25-28. That is, Kovacs-Birkas does not obtain a first estimated timing response of a circuit path of a circuit block netlist using a first timing model nor obtain a second estimated timing response of the circuit path of the circuit block netlist to generate a correction factor based on a variation between the first estimated timing response and the second estimated timing response as required by the independent claims 1, 12, 22, 30 and 37. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 12, 22, 30 and 37 are patentable over Kovacs-Birkas and such indication is respectfully requested.

The remaining rejected claims, 2-11, 13-16, 18-21, 23-28, 31-34, 36 and 38-42 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of independent claims 1, 12, 22, 30 and 37. Accordingly, these dependent claims are themselves patentable over Kovacs-Birkas and such indication is respectfully requested. This statement is made without reference to or waiving the independent bases of patentability within each dependent claim.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 17 and 35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. At this time, claims 17 and 35 have not been amended herein to be written in independent form. For the above disclosed discussed reasons with regard to independent claims 12 and 30, from which claims 17 and 35 depend, it is believed that these claims are in form for allowance without amendment and such indication is respectfully requested. The Applicant reserves the right to amend claims 17 and 35 in independent form at a later date.

IV. Conclusion

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his thorough review of the application. The Applicant respectfully submits the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowability as soon as practicable.

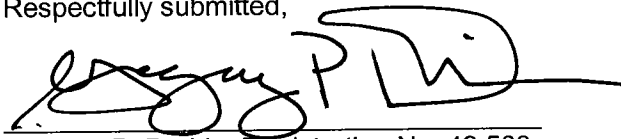
This Amendment is submitted contemporaneously with a Request for Continued Examination. Accordingly, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 in the amount of \$810.00, for Request for Continued Examination fee. The Applicant believes no further fees or petitions are required. However, if any such petitions or fees are necessary, please

consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 accordingly.

If the Examiner should require any additional information or amendment, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated: Jan. 9, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory P. Durbin', written over a horizontal line.

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